JOCKET	NO.	

in the Commissioner of Patents and	Trademari	KS:
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06/08/98	Gransmitted herewith for filing is the (M Utility [1 Design [1] Plant patent application of: Unventor(s) Chester M. Dacres, Ph.D., P.E. White of invention: Portable Hand-held In-situ Electrochemical Sensor for Evaluating Corrosion and Adhesion on Coated and Uncoated Metal Structures						
	Enclosed are the following items:						
the state of the grown counts grown grown in the state of	A. Ouplicate copies of this Patent Application Transmittal Form. E. Sheet(s) of KI informal [] formal drawings. C. Page(s) of specification. D. Page(s) of claims. E. I Page(s) of abstract. F. I Declaration (Signed) X (Unsigned) G. A Power of Attorney executed by the [] Inventor(s) [] Assignee. H. An assignment transmittal letter I. X A verified statement to establish Small Entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27 J. An Information Disclosure Statement. K. A list of references (Form PTD-1449) L. Copies of references M. Pretiminary Amendment N. Postcard O. Other (specify)						
Frank (f.		CLAI	MS AS	FILE			
A STATE AND	BASIC FILING FEE:	SMALL ENTITY			OTHER THAN		
	X utility	<u>\$355</u>	or		<u>\$710</u>		\$ <u>325</u>
•	Design	\$145	or		\$290		3
	Plant	\$240	or		\$480		3
,	TOTAL CLAIMS 20 =	x <u>s 11</u>	or	X	<u>\$ 22</u>		3
Α	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3 =	x <u>8.37</u>	or	×	<u>\$ 74</u>	=	\$
	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENT	+ <u>\$115</u>	or	•	\$230		\$
	RECORDING FEE FOR ASSIGNMENT (\$40.00)						s
	TOTAL FILING FEE:						s

	The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account Noas	described belo
	Charge the total filing fee of \$ Charge any additional filing fees as required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17. Credit any overpayment. Charge the issue fee required under 37 CFR 1.18 at the time of smiling of the Notice of Allowance 37 CFR 1.311(b).	e, pursuant to
	Claim for Priority Under 35 U.S.C. \$120:	
	[] The benefit under 35 U.S.C. \$120 is hereby claimed from the following United States application	ı:
	Claim for Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 5119:	
d S. S. S. S. Black		cation:
April grave to delight	Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to:	
1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	Dr. Chester M. Dacres, P.E.	
£	President	
	DACCO SCI, INC.	
	10260 Old Columbia Road	
# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #	Columbia, MD 21046	
٠	Telephone: (410) 381-9475	
	Facsimile: (410, 381-9643	
•	Signature of Applicant or Aetoliney	
	Registration No.:	

Date: June 8, 1998

DACCO SCI, INC.

CORROSION ENGINEERING-MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY-ELECTROCHEMISTRY

10260 OLD COLUMBIA ROAD, COLUMBIA, MD 21046 Balt. (410) 381-9475 • DC (301) 596-7019 • FAX (410) 381-9643

June 8, 1998

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE Attention: Application Branch Assistant Secretary and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

RE: PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Dear Sir

For:

Pursuant to the directives of 37 CFR § 1.53(b)(2), I hereby request that the attached provisional application be filed as follows:

on Coated and Uncoated Metal Structures

Name of first Inventor:

Guy Donald Davis, Ph.D.

Residence Address:

1 South Beechwood Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21228

Name of second Inventor:

Chester Malcolm Dacres, Ph.D., P.E.

Residence Address:

5092 Jericho Road, Columbia, Maryland 21044

Portable, Hand-held, In-Situ Electrochemical Sensor for Evaluating Corrosion and Adhesion

Enclosed are the Following Supporting Documentation:

- **(X)** Specification in pages 1 to 14.
- (X) 5 Sheets of Drawings.
- (X) A check in the amount of \$3\$5.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

The attached provisional application contains the necessary specification, background of the invention, summary of the invention, claims and an abstract of the disclosure. Furthermore, the invention was NOT made by an agency of the United States Government.

. 1 Mante Service Mark dark State Anna and Shape

Page Two Letter to Assistant Secretary and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks June 5, 1998

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 381-9475. All correspondence may be sent to my attention at the following address: DACCO SCI, INC., 10260 Old Columbia Road, Columbia, MD 21046. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted

16th est 7

Chester M. Dacres, Ph.D., P.E.

President

CMD/kdd

Portable, Hand-held, *In-Situ* Electrochemical Sensor for Evaluating Corrosion and Adhesion on Coated and Uncoated Metal Structures

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a portable, hand-held and nondestructive corrosion sensing device for detecting the early stages of metal and coating degradation and electrochemical corrosion. More specifically, the present invention relates to a portable corrosion sensor which is utilized under field (actual, environmental or *in situ*) conditions in detecting coating degradation and electrochemical corrosion of both small and large coated (painted) and uncoated metal structures, thereby permitting detection of coating and metal degradation and electrochemical corrosion well before serious deterioration of the material or structure has occurred.

2. Prior Art

A major goal in the electrochemical field has long been to create a sensor which could be utilized in field or service conditions to detect corrosion and adhesion on metal structures of any size before significant degradation has occurred. Evaluation of materials and coatings and the determination or prediction of corrosion performance of both painted and uncoated metal structures or specimens under ambient field or service conditions has traditionally involved visual comparisons which are subjective and require blistering, rusting, or other advanced stages of degradation. The use of laboratory techniques, such as electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS, also known as AC impedance), which has been used to understand and predict corrosion performance during immersion exposures in different electrolytes was limited to small structures

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or witness specimens that could be immersed, small sections of material cut from large structures, or attachment to the structure of a clamp-on liquid cell in which a liquid or semi-liquid electrolyte and remote counter and reference electrodes were contained.

Inspection of a large structure using conventional EIS methodologies required complete immersion or use of a clamp-on cell. Such cells would be filled with a liquid or semi-liquid electrolyte (e.g., Kihira *et al.*, U.S. Patent 4,806,849; and Kazami *et al.*, U.S. Patent 4,861,453) or a spongy medium impregnated with a liquid electrolyte (e.g., Kondou *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,221,893) with remote electrodes immersed in the electrolyte or in intimate contact with the electrolyte-impregnated sponge. These cells required an accessible, flat, smooth, and horizontal area. The set-up was considered to be time consuming and had to be performed for each measurement. Corrosion was detected only directly under the cell and use of the cell actually caused artifactual damage to the coating in many instances because of exposure to the electrolyte during measurement.

Davis et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 08/724,753, recently taught a painted electrode sensor which eliminates many of the problems discussed above. The actual structure is being inspected without exposure to an extrinsic electrolyte. Measurements are possible under most natural or accelerated conditions and material and coating degradation are detectable from the very early stages. However, the Davis et al., sensor requires an electrode to be permanently painted onto the structure and is time-consuming, because of all of the fabrication steps which must be completed. It is not suitable for structures in which appearance or aerodynamics preclude an attached sensor. The sensor can induce artifactual damage in a small class of

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materials, primarily porous coatings.

Presently, there is no portable, hand-held corrosion sensing device for early detection of electrochemical corrosion, metal and coating degradation which can evaluate degradation on structures or material of any size, under *in situ* or actual conditions, as well as under aggressive corrosive conditions, and which requires no permanent attachment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The principal objective of the present invention is to provide a portable, hand-held and nondestructive corrosion sensing device which is utilized under field (actual, environmental or *in situ*) conditions in detecting coating degradation and electrochemical corrosion of both small and large coated (painted) and uncoated metal structures, thereby permitting detection of coating and metal degradation and electrochemical corrosion well before serious deterioration of the material or structure has occurred. The present invention allows for broad applicability, flexibility in utilizing the sensor in various environments without structural compromise and/or the ability to inspect and evaluate corrosion of the actual structure, regardless of the size of the structure.

The foregoing objectives can be accomplished utilizing the present invention as a portable, hand-held and nondestructive corrosion sensing device providing an *in situ* sensor for producing an output correlative to an identifiable impedance spectrum (i.e., the impedance magnitude and phase as a function of the frequency of the applied voltage, created utilizing AC Impedance or Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS). The preferred embodiment of the invention is a portable, hand-held and nondestructive apparatus, comprising a pen-like device

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which consists of a metal tip which serves both as a counter and reference electrode. The metal structure being tested, which either may be coated or uncoated, serves as the working electrode. This two electrode sensing device measures differences in impedance spectra which are responsive to atmospheric, water uptake, incubation, and corrosion; utilizing, the metal tip as the counter and reference electrode, applying a small electrical voltage between the metallic substrate of the structure, which serves as the working electrode, and the counter/reference electrode and measuring the resulting current based upon the applied voltage between the electrodes. The portable, hand-held *in situ* corrosion sensor contemplated in the present invention is pressed against the top coat during inspection. The present invention readily detects the early stages of interfacial degradation well before any visual indication of corrosion appears, as well as the ability to detect, quantify and monitor coating and metal degradation from its earliest stages under both laboratory and field conditions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an impedance spectrum for painted aluminum following immersion for different periods of salt water exposure.

Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic representation of the pen-like sensing device with attached metal tip 2, that serves as the counter and reference electrode. The cable which is attached to 2, is connected to the potentiostat. The working electrode 1, is the coated metal being tested and connected to the potentiostat with an attached wire 3.

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Fig. 3 is a graphic representation of impedance spectra of epoxy-polyimide painted aluminum with and without a scratched defect using both a conventional three-electrode measurement and measurements made using three different embodiments of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a graphic representation of vinyl-coated steel panels exposed to ambient fresh water obtained using the present invention.

Fig. 5 is impedance spectra for a painted aluminum specimen with a scratch to simulate a coating defect.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The invention provides a portable, hand-held, in-situ electrochemical sensor capable of detecting and monitoring corrosion of an actual structure from the earliest stages of deterioration. The sensor utilizes electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) for investigating corrosion and coating degradation.

Referring to the drawings, Fig. 1 is a plot of an impedance spectrum for painted aluminum following immersion for different periods of salt water exposure. The figure shows that initially the coated metal demonstrates capacitive behavior with very high impedance at low frequencies. As the coating degrades during immersion, its resistance decreases and the impedance become independent of frequency at low frequencies.

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Fig. 2 is a drawing of a portable hand-held in-situ sensor with a metal tip 2, which acts as a reference and counter electrode. 2 is encased in a nonconductive plastic shield in the form of a pen-like holder for easy grasping in order to hold the tip of the electrode 2 onto the working painted metal 1 that is being tested. A cable is attached to the top of the pen-like electrode 2, to facilitate an easy electrical connection to a potentiostat. The working electrode 1, has a cable attached 3, for electrical connection to the potentiostat.

Fig. 3 is a series of impedance spectra of epoxy-polyamide panted aluminum with and without a scratch defect. Each of the three variation of the hand-held probe gives results very similar to the conventional three-electrode measurements. Each measurement very clearly reflects the presence of a gross defect such as a scratch.

Fig. 4 is a series of impedance spectra of vinyl-coated steel panels exposed to ambient fresh water for excellent condition even after 22 years of exposure; others were severely deteriorated even after one year. The correlation using the portable, hand-held in-situ electrochemical sensor is excellent. The coatings that appeared in excellent condition exhibited very high impedance with predominately capacitive behavior. In contrast, those coatings that were in poor condition with numerous blisters or rusty areas had very low impedance and mostly resistive behavior.

Fig. 5 is a series of impedance spectra for a painted aluminum specimen with a scratch to simulate a coating defect. As the portable, hand-held, in-situ sensor was moved further from the defect, a plateau region at intermediate frequencies appears and corresponds to a conduction

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path along the surface.

We claim:

- 1. A method for the early detection of electrochemical corrosion, metal and coating degradation utilizing an inexpensive, portable, hand-held, and nondestructive corrosion sensor, for detection of corrosion of both small and large coated (painted) and uncoated metal structures, under field (actual, environmental or *in situ*) conditions, comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing a portable, hand-held sensor for producing an output correlative to an identifiable impedance spectrum (i.e., the impedance magnitude and phase as a function of the frequency of the applied voltage, created utilizing AC Impedance or Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS)) comprising a pen-like device which consists of a metal tip which serves both as a counter and reference electrode responsive to atmospheric, water uptake, incubation, and corrosion which produce differences in impedance spectra, eliminating the need for a remote or counter electrode by electrolyte immersion; and utilizing, as the working electrode, the metal structure being tested, which either may be coated or uncoated;
- (b) utilizing the sensor, which may be either straight in structural configuration (in the form of a pen) or bent in a curved or angled fashion to achieve better access through small openings, as the counter or reference electrode and pressing the metal tip of the sensor against the top coat of the metallic structure to be tested, a small electrical voltage is applied between the metallic substrate of the structure, which serves as the working electrode, and the pen-like sensor, and measuring the resulting current based upon the applied voltage between the

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electrodes;

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(c))	controlling the detection area of the sensor by wetting the surface of the structure
with wate	er or	other electrolyte allowing the sensor to detect corrosion or coating defects away
from the s	sensc	or wherever the structure is wet.

- (d) converting an analog signal indicative of the measured current to a corresponding ac impedance signal;
- (e) providing a potentiostat's microcomputer with an operational program representative of a functional expression which correlates to distinctive impedance signatures; and
- (f) converting the impedance spectrum as a function of accelerated exposure and interpreting the said spectrum to determine the stage of corrosion the metal and/or coating has experienced.
- 2. An apparatus for detection of metal and coating degradation of any metallic structure under field (actual, environmental or *in situ*) conditions, based on an identifiable impedance spectrum (i.e., the impedance magnitude and phase as a function of the frequency of the applied voltage created utilizing ac impedance or Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS)) comprising:
- (a) means for measuring impedance spectra by applying electrical voltage between the metallic substrate of the structure as a working electrode and a counter or reference
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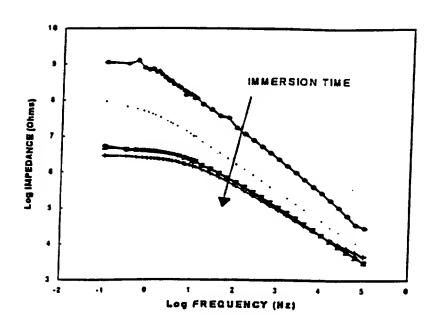
electrode comprising a pen-like device consisting of a metal tip and measuring the resulting small electrical current based upon the applied voltage between the electrodes;

- (b) means for converting an analog signal indicative of the measured current to a corresponding ac impedance signal;
- (c) a potentiostat's microcomputer with an operational program representative of a functional expression which correlates to distinctive impedance spectra; and
- (d) means for converting the impedance spectrum as a function of accelerated exposure and interpreting the said spectrum to determine the stage of corrosion the metal and/or coating has experienced.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

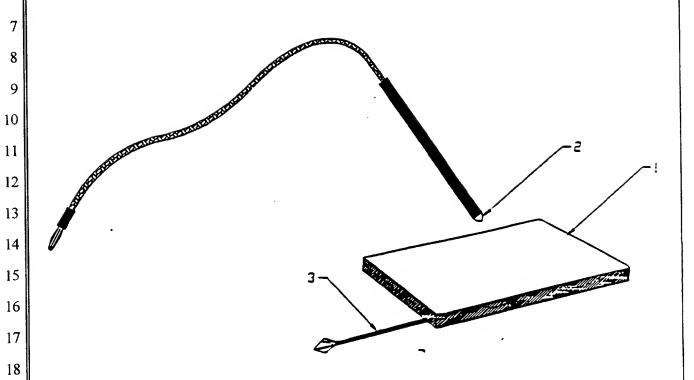
A hand-held corrosion sensor is described that uses electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS, also known as AC impedance) to detect coating degradation and corrosion of coated and uncoated metals. The hand-held sensor is pressed against the surface of the structure or specimen to be inspected. An EIS spectrum can then be obtained in the field or under arbitrary conditions and the degree of coating or material degradation can be determined from the resultant spectrum. There are no restrictions on the configuration of the structure being inspected. The area of detection is controlled by controlling the extent and degree of wetness of the surface. A dry surface will provide a localized measurement; a wet surface will allow inspection of the wetted area.

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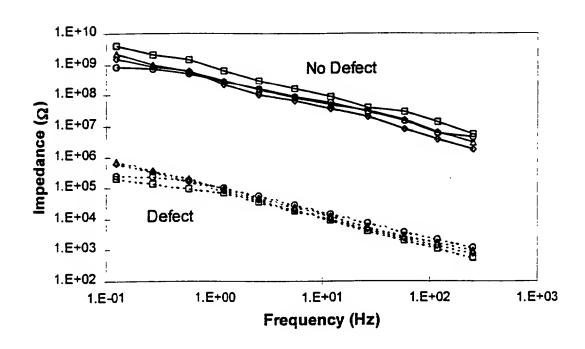
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FIGURE 2

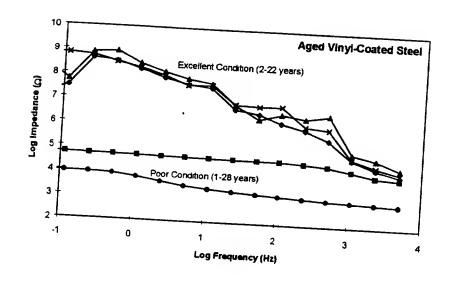


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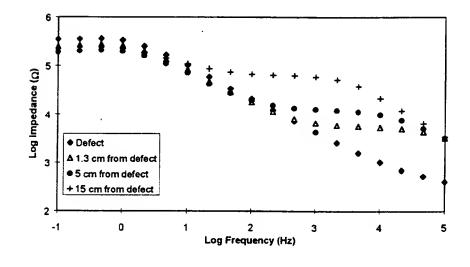
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VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTILL STATES (37 CFR 19(f) & 1.27(c))—SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

Applicant or Patentee: Dr. Chester M. Dacres Serial or Patent No.: 4 Filed or Issued: June 8, 1998
Title Portable Hand-held In-situ Electrochemical Sensor for Evaluating Corrosion and Adhesion on Coated and Uncoated Metal Structures
I hereity declare that I am
(A) the owner of the small business concern identified below:
an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:
NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN DACCO SCI, INC.
ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN 10260 Old Columbia Road
Columbia, MD 21046
Thereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.1
and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the mumb
of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the municipal of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the municipal of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons.
of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either
directly or indirectly, one concern countils or has the power to control the other, and (2) concerns are emission or has the power to count
both.
Thereby decises that rights under commet or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:
the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
the application identified above.
the parent identified above.
If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention must file separate verified statements avening to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a numerofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).
Each person, concern or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:
no such parson, concern, or organization exists.
Each person, concern or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below: To such person, concern, or organization exists. Description, concern or organization is listed below. Dr. Guy D. Davis
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In a such passon, concern, or organization exists. A each such person, concern or organization is listed below. Dr. Guy D. Davis Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the inventor avering to their status as small emities. (37 CFR 1.27) I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or passon, positivation of any change in status resulting in loss of emitlement to small emity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small emity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.22(b)) Thereby declare that all statements made herein of thy own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief
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no such person, concern, or organization exists. Decach such person, concern or organization is listed below. Decach such person, concern or organization is listed below. Decach such person, concern or organization is listed below. Decach such person, concern or organization is listed below. Decach such person, concern or organization or organization having rights to the inventor averting to the sum of the sum of person, concern or organization having rights to the inventor averting to their resum as small emities. (37 CFR 1.27) I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or passes, nonlinear of any change in summa resulting in loss of emitlement to small emity sums prior to paying, or as the time of paying, the emities of the issue for or any mannermore fee due after the due on which status as a small emity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)) Thereby decises that all summans made herein of thy own knowledge are true and that all summans made on information and belief are believed to be one; and further that these summans were made with the knowledge that willful false summans and the life so made as punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that noth willful false interests may joopartize the validity of the application, any passes issuing thereon, or any passes to which this verified strument is irrected. MAME OF PERSON SIGNING Dr. Chester M. Dacres TILE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER President

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))—INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

Docket Number (Opnonal)

Applicant or Patentee: Dr. (Chester M. Dacres	-			
Serial or Patent No.:		•			
Filed or Issued:					
Tite: Portable Hand-l	neld In-situ Electroch Adhesion on Coated and	emical Sensor for Evaluating Uncoated Metal Structures			
	by declare that I qualify as an indepen- the Patent and Trademark Office desc	dent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for middle in:			
the specification filed bere-	with with title as listed above.				
X the application identified al	oove.				
X the patent identified above.					
I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).					
Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obliga- tion under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:					
No such person, concern,	or organization exists.				
Each such person, concern or organization is listed below.					
Separate verified statements are req	nired from ^t each named person, concer	or organization having rights to the inven-			
tion averring to their status as small	entities. (37 CFR 1.27)				
I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate, (37 CFR 1.28(b))					
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.					
Dr. Guy D. Davis	Dr. Chester M. Dacr	96			
NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR			
Signature of investor	Signature of inventor	Signature of inventor			
June 8. 1998 Date	June 8, 1998	Deta			
(Jan					

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DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby deciare that: My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if clural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled Portable Hand-held In-situ Flectrochemical Sensor for , the specification of which Evaluating Corrosion and Adhesion on Coated and Uncoated Metal Structures is attached hereto unless the following box is checked: was filed on June 8, 1998 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application and was amended on ___ Number I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Priority Claimed Prior Foreign Application(s) ☐ Yes ☐ No (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed) (Number) ☐ Yes ☐ No (Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Fled) ☐ Yes ☐ No (Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed) I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filling date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application. (Filing Date) (Application Number) (Status - patented, pending, abandoned) (Application Number) (Filing Date) (Status - patented, pending, abandoned) I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Address all telephone calls to Dr. Chaster M. Dacres at telephone number 301-596 -3019 Same Address all correspondence to I hereby deciare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon. Full name of sole or first insertion in the property name) Dr. Guy D. Davis Inventor's signature Date June 8 - 1998 Residence 1 S. Beechwood Avenue Chizanshin U.S.A. Post Office Address Baltimore, MD 21228 Full name of second joint inventor, if any (given name, family name) Dr. Chester M. Dacres Second Inventor's signature 6 hesis Cacies. Date June 8, 1998 Residence 10260 Sternwheel Place Citizenship ___ U.S.A. Post Office Address Columbia, MD 21044

Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.